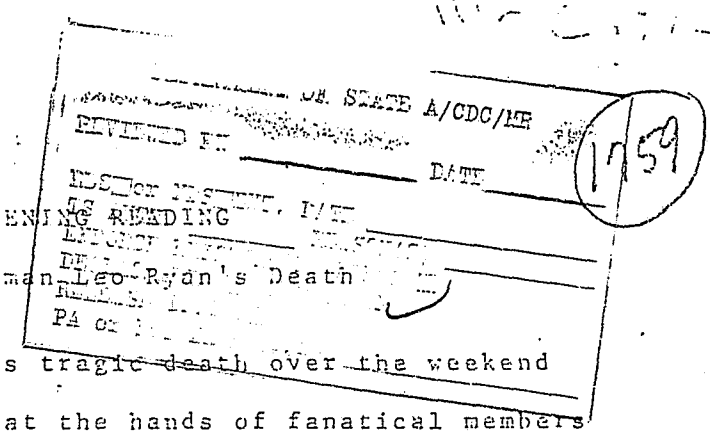

EVENING READING

Congressman Leo Ryan's Death

Congressman Ryan's tragic death over the weekend in Guyana, apparently at the hands of fanatical members of the Peoples Temple agricultural community, was reportedly followed by the suicide of up to 400 members of the reported 1100 member American community. We do not as yet have a full report of what transpired, but expect to have more information as soon as additional Embassy staff and communications support arrive on the scene. Prime Minister Burnham has assured Ambassador Burke of his Government's full cooperation and has asked us for logistical support to aid his Armed Forces in establishing order. We are supplying aircraft - principally helicopters and supplies for his troops plus graves registration specialists and medical personnel. We have conveyed to Burnham our concern that the perpetrators of this crime be brought to speedy justice and we are exploring the legal implications in the United States of what transpired in Guyana.

ARA:CBrayshaw:cfc
11/20/78

ARA/CAR:AHewitt